

REMARKS/ARGUMENT

Claims 1-23 were pending, with claims 12-16 before the Examiner for consideration in the final Office Action. Previously withdrawn claims 1-11 and 17-23 have been canceled herein without prejudice or disclaimer. In addition, claims 12 and 15 have also been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 13 and 16 have been amended. The remaining claims are unchanged. No new matter has been introduced.

While Applicant does not necessarily agree with the rejections set forth in the final Office Action, in an effort to advance prosecution of the present application, the claims of the present application have been amended as suggested by the Examiner.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 13-14 and 16 include patentable subject matter and that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. By the present Amendment, claim 13 has been amended to be in independent form and to include the subject matter of now canceled claim 12 on which it previously depended. Thus, in light of the Examiner's comments in the final Office Action, it is believed that amended claim 13 is patentable over the cited art.

Claim 16 has been amended to correct a minor formal matter. The only remaining pending claims, claims 14 and 16, depend either directly or indirectly on claim 13. Thus, it is believed that these claims are also patentable over the cited art.

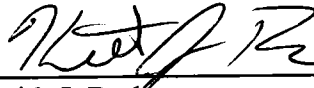
In light of the remarks and amendments herein, it is respectfully submitted that claims 13-14 and 16 are patentable over the cited art and are in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully solicited.

THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING
SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY
THROUGH THE PATENT AND
TRADEMARK OFFICE EFS FILING
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DAM/KJB

Respectfully submitted,



Keith J. Barkaus

Registration No.: 51, 431

OSTROLENK, FABER, GERB & SOFFEN, LLP

1180 Avenue of the Americas

New York, New York 10036-8403

Telephone: (212) 382-0700